

3732
#4

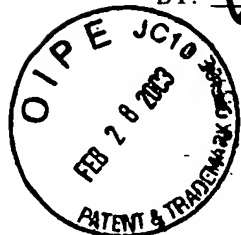
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, DC 20231, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

BY:

Vickie Jones

DATE:

2/24/03



PATENT
Box Non-Fee Amendment

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:	Patent Application of Stephan Prestel	: Group Art Unit 3732 : : :
Conf No.:	8933	: : : Examiner: Uyen T. Ho :
Appln. No.:	10/039,506	: : :
Filed:	January 4, 2002	: Attorney Docket : No. 7535-651US : (RW 616 US)
For:	SURGICAL INSTRUMENT	

RECEIVED
MAR 04 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

It is requested that the enclosed references listed on the attached Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO/SB/08/A be considered by the Patent Examiner in connection with the above-identified application and be made of record therein.

The enclosed references were cited in a UK Search Report dated June 27, 2002 (copy enclosed) in counterpart UK Patent Application No. GB 0200623.7 or in a French Search Report dated January 9, 2002 (copy enclosed) in counterpart French Patent Application No. 0200562. A translation of pertinent portions of the French Search Report is as follows:

U.S. Patent 6,162,207 is cited as category X (particularly pertinent taken alone) with respect to claims 1 and 3 (see col. 7, line 21 – col. 8, line 25 and Figs. 15A-21). The U.S. patent is also cited as category Y (particularly pertinent in combination with another document of the same category) with respect to claim 5. DE 36 32 786 A is cited as category Y with respect to claim 5 (see col. 7, line 26 – col. 8, line 18 and Figs. 2 and 3).

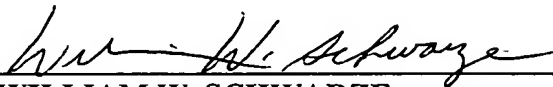
Independent consideration and acknowledgment of the enclosed references are respectfully requested. :

Respectfully submitted,

STEPHAN PRESTEL

February 24, 2003
(Date)

By:



WILLIAM W. SCHWARZE

Registration No. 25,918

AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P.

One Commerce Square

2005 Market Street, Suite 2200

Philadelphia, PA 19103-7086

Telephone: (215) 965-1200

Direct Dial: (215) 965-1270

Facsimile: (215) 965-1210

E-Mail: wschwarze@akingump.com

WWS/vj
Enclosure